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184

INT 706/1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR REPORTING AND COLLECTION OF INFORMATION
AND INTELLIGENCE

Memorandum by the Secretary, N.I.A.

As requested, the enclosed memorandum for the Director of Central Intelligence from the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Research and Intelligence is circulated for consideration at an early meeting of the Intelligence Advisory Board.

In the meantime, the Enclosure has been referred to the Interdepartmental Coordinating and Planning Staff (ICAPS) for action as suggested in paragraph 5 thereof.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.

Secretary, N.I.A.

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CIG 18

HS/HK 276

- 1 -
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

INT 706/2

ENCLOSURE

Special Assistant to the Secretary of State
Washington

October 18, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

Subject: Responsibilities of the Department of State for Reporting and Collection of Information and Intelligence

1. The Department of State is increasingly anxious to eliminate duplication of effort, in the field, with respect to collecting and reporting intelligence information. The duplication seems to stem from a failure to define and to distinguish basic departmental responsibilities.

2. Current meetings under the sponsorship of your Interdepartmental Coordinating and Planning Staff have explored this problem. It has been touched upon in meetings of the Intelligence Advisory Board. Since volume of information is a major need of all Departments and since duplication of collecting effort to that extent reduces the flow, it is essential that measures be taken promptly to effect sound, efficient utilization of the various departmental overseas reporting and collection services.

3. As a prerequisite to any such measures the Departments and the CIG must agree upon basic delineation of responsibilities. To that end, the Department of State proposes that it assume complete responsibility for the overt procurement of information and intelligence in foreign areas on all political, economic, social and cultural matters. It also proposes that it assume the responsibility for scientific information and intelligence with such exceptions as fall within the naval and military fields.

UNCLASSIFIED

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INT 706/3

4. It should be noted that "complete responsibility" does not connote "complete activity". Obviously circumstances will produce variations in capabilities at the separate collecting points, and it is to be expected that each Department will want to assist other Departments wherever possible.

5. The Department of State requests that this proposal be placed on the agenda for an early meeting of the IAB. Meanwhile it is suggested that the subject be referred to ICAPS in connection with its interdepartmental meetings on collection, and that ICAPS be asked to make a tentative report, if possible, before the IAB meeting takes place.

/s/
William A. Eddy
Special Assistant for
Research and Intelligence

cc to: Gen. Chamberlin - ID, WDGS
Adm. Inglis - ONI
Gen. McDonald - A-2

CIG 18

- 3 -

Enclosure

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